(d) the steps taken to revive these charge chrome plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) There are 4 charge chrome plants in Orissa borne on the list of Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel;

(b) to (d) As per available information, all the four charge chrome plants are in operation.

Drinking Water Schemes for Gujarat

1002. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has submitted drinking Water Schemes for flouride for the benefit of 1100 villages involving 45 crores of rupees for clearance;

(b) if so, when was the scheme received in his Ministry and action taken thereon so far;

(c) whether the clearance after approval has been communicated to the Gujarat Government;

(d) if so, when and if not, the reasons for delay; and

(e) the time by when the clearance is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These schemes were received by the Ministry during April/May, 1995.

(c) to (e) This Ministry had approved schemes costing Rs. 67 crore to cover 600 habitations affected with excess fluoride during 1993-94/1994-95 in Gujarat under Sub-Mission programme. A sum of Rs. 27 crore was also released to State Government. The expenditure reported is only Rs. 3.5 crore upto 31st December, 1995. In view of the slow progress of implementation of these schemes, the State Government has been requested to expedite the implementation of the approved schemes before forwarding any proposals under Sub-mission programme. As a result of this, the submitted schemes were returned to the State Government.

Impact of Scrap Steel

1003. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to liberalise import of scrap steel;

(b) the quantity imported in 1994-95 and in 1995-96;

(c) whether it is a fact that mini-steel plants have represented on this matter; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Import of all iron and steel items including steel melting scrap is freely allowed as per the Export-Import Policy.

(b) The quantity of steel melting scrap imported in 1994-95 and 1995-96 (April-November, 1995) has been 14.16 lakh tonnes and 6.72 lakh tonnes respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Representations received for changes in customs duty and considered and remedial measures taken by Government wherever necessary.

12.00 NOON

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I call upon the Deputy Chairman who wants to say something?

RESOLUTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA): Sir, may I request you to allow me to move a Resolution? I request the House to pass it. Today is the International Women's Day. (*Interruptions*).... Yes, we are applauding for the Women's Day. The first applause is for the Women's Day. The second would be for the Resolution we will unanimously pass. The women Members of Parliament in both the Houses cutting across party-lines met two days ago and we decided to put before both the Houses of Parliament a Resolution. I am reading it out before you, Sir, for the House to adopt it unanimously.

Sir, today, the 8th March is a historic day which is observed as "International Women's Day" all over the world. On this occasion, to